

SITUATION REPORT NO. 22
INCIDENT NO. 99-009
DATE: June 28, 1999 TIME: 3:00 p.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring flooding – Above normal soil moisture content throughout North Dakota, compounded by seven years of flooding and additional precipitation, has resulted in overland, river and flash flooding and ground movement (landslides and mudslides). Excessive high winds associated with storm and tornado activity have contributed to ongoing problems faced by North Dakotans.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: In Burleigh County, residents of a manufactured home were transported to a local hospital after a structure was blown into their home during the June 25 storm.
3. DAMAGES: On June 26-26, heavy rainfall and damaging straight-line winds gusting, up to 100 miles per hour (mph), caused extensive damages to the southwest and central areas of North Dakota. Flash flooding occurred in some areas. Power outages were reported for extended periods of time as utility crews and firefighters removed downed trees from power lines.

Hettinger County officials report that during the June 25-26 storm a building on the county fairgrounds suffered damage when high winds blew out the overhead doors on both ends. The storm felled trees within the city of Mott, with one landing on a home. Winds in excess of 50 mph were reported in the Mott area. Hail and rainfall amounts ranging from one-quarter to nearly three-quarters inch were recorded.

In Burleigh County, severe wind, hail and rain during the June 25-26 storms damaged buildings, downed power lines, uprooted trees, caused street flooding and water damage to homes. The dome at the golf center in northeast Bismarck was flattened during the storm. Numerous trailers sustained roof damages. An initial damage assessment by Burleigh County Emergency Management indicates that apartment garages in northeast Bismarck were damaged as were campers at the Kimball Bottoms, the Desert and Menoken areas. Trailer skirting and footings were ripped off manufactured homes. Large trees fell on propane tanks and homes in the Ponderosa Riverside Village in Bismarck. Metal sheds and roofs were also damaged.

In Stutsman County, communities reporting wind-related damages, to include broken tree branches and downed trees, were Woodworth, Pingree, Buchanan, Edmunds, Kensal, Courtenay and Jamestown. While these areas received little

rain, winds toppled trees. The hardest hit areas included Kensal and Pingree, where downed trees made travel impossible on many streets. Downed trees throughout the county caused power outages of varying amounts of time; by Saturday, power had been restored to most areas. Power lines were reported on parked vehicles, and some were hanging low, preventing travel on roadways. The grain elevators at both Woodworth and Kensal received heavy damage when winds blew the tops off silos. A number of silos were crushed by winds, and an undetermined number of barns, grain bins and storage buildings were destroyed. A semi tractor-trailer on U.S. Highway 281 was blown over near Edmunds as were road construction signs and markers along Interstate 94.

On June 21, heavy rains in excess of three inches, high winds and hail caused severe damage in a three- to five-mile wide area in Sargent County. The heaviest areas of damage started southeast of Oakes and extended east across the county, south of Forman and into the Rutland area, and south of Lake Teuwakon. An area north and east of Geneseo was also impacted. Hail and lightning damaged buildings, the local Sargent County U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) emergency board has reported.

Emmons County agriculture officials also reported storm damages on June 21. The area received hail and four to five inches of rain within a two-hour period. Percent of yield losses for 35,200 acres of wheat, corn, canola, sunflowers and hay range from 10 to 45 percent. Twenty farm dwellings sustained \$5,000 in damages, and land damages from erosion and gullying are estimated at \$125,000.

Western Dickey County received from 3.5 to 4.5 inches of rain during a June 22 storm. Gravel washed from roads, and erosion occurred on roads and around culverts. Debris washed up on roads, and creeks are flowing at capacity. Flash flooding occurred in the Forbes area. The State Line road was closed, but has been reopened for limited travel.

Throughout North Dakota, planting progress lags behind the five-year average for all crops, according to the North Dakota Crop Weather Report. In the north central area, large amounts of land have not been planted because of consistent and heavy rainfall.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: Throughout storm-damaged areas, residents assisted each other with cleanup efforts during the June 25-26 weekend. Farmers helped smaller communities by using their equipment during cleanup efforts. Amateur radio clubs assisted with emergency response efforts.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: As of June 26, more than 3,000 North Dakotans living on three Indian Reservations and 34 counties within the disaster area have registered for disaster assistance provided under FEMA-1279-DR-ND. Nearly 1,500 disaster housing checks totaling \$1.7 million have been issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for temporary housing and minor home repairs. Staff for the Individual and Family Grant Program (IFG), managed by North Dakota Emergency Management, have processed more than 1,000 requests for assistance. IFG covers disaster-related expenses, such as essential home repairs, replacement of personal property, transportation and necessary expenses not covered by insurance or other programs. The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has approved \$118,000 in low-interest disaster loans.

On June 24, Governor Schafer and Rick Weiland, FEMA Region VIII director, signed the FEMA-State Agreement for FEMA-1279-DR-ND. Also that day, the Governor and Regional Director participated in a signing ceremony in Valley City for Project Impact. Valley City became the second North Dakota city to participate in Project Impact, an initiative to build disaster-resistant communities. Fargo was the first city.

State and federal disaster workers will staff a Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) in West Fargo at 1150 Prairie Parkway, Suite 101, open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., June 28, 29 and 30. North Dakota state agencies providing support for the DRC include the N.D. Department of Human Services, N.D. Department of Health and the N.D. Department of Agriculture. Federal agencies include the FEMA and SBA.

Eddy County has issued a disaster declaration. To date, 39 counties, 30 cities and four Indian reservations have issued flood or storm emergency or disaster declarations.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: Assistance has been provided, as reported
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: FEMA, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), USACE, Red Cross, consulting engineers, N.D. DOT and members of the N.D. Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD).
9. OTHER: The next Devils Lake State Flood Coordination Center meeting has been scheduled for 1:30 p.m., July 22, at the Ramsey County Courthouse basement meeting room.

Situation Reports published by the N.D. Division of Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet Home page. The address is:
<http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director